

Patent Abstracts of Japan

PUBLICATION NUMBER : 61271296
PUBLICATION DATE : 01-12-86

APPLICATION DATE : 28-05-85
APPLICATION NUMBER : 60114571

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INT.CL. : C07H 3/06 C07H 1/08 C07H 13/04 C08B 37/08

TITLE : PRODUCTION OF N-ACETYLCHITO-OLIGOSACCHARIDE

ABSTRACT : PURPOSE: To obtain the titled compound useful as a low-cariogenic sweetener, etc., smoothly, in large quantity and high efficiency, by partially hydrolyzing chitin with an acid, neutralizing the partial hydrolyzate with an alkali, and separating and removing the by-produced salt from the neutralized liquid by an ion-exchange membrane electrodialysis, etc.

CONSTITUTION: Chitin used as a starting material is partially hydrolyzed with an acid, preferably with concentrated hydrochloric acid. The partially hydrolyzed liquid is neutralized with an alkali to obtain N-acetylchito-oligosaccharide. The neutralized solution is desalted by ion-exchange membrane electrodialysis to effect the separation and removal of by-produced salt. The desalted solution is preferably treated with an ion exchange resin to effect the complete decoloration and the purification to a high purity, and usually pulverized to obtain the objective compound.

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